

MAR 19 2003

GROUP 1700

Attorney's Docket No. 33236/207269PATENTRESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 - EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 1745

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Johan Christiaan Fitter
Appl. No.: 09/739,483
Filed: December 18, 2000
For: AN ELECTROCHEMICAL CELL

Confirmation No.: 9478
Group Art Unit: 1745
Examiner: Cantelmo, Gregg

March 17, 2003

BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

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This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action of January 16, 2003. No new issues are raised by this Amendment. Because the present application is now in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. Alternatively, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment for purposes of narrowing the issues upon appeal.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 16 - 18, 20, and 21 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An electrochemical cell comprising opposed positive and negative electrodes and an aqueous electrolyte in ionic contact with the electrodes, the electrochemical cell having a first mode wherein the cell undergoes a charging reaction and a second mode wherein the cell undergoes an electrolysis reaction, the electrochemical cell further comprising a current impeding medium that is characterized as being substantially inactive during the first mode of the cell and active during the second mode of the cell, the current